

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
November 27, 2007**

Members Present: Ennis, Carroll, Evans, Harden, Lank, Lardizzone, Newstadt, Smith, Thompson and Wasson

Members Excused: Corsa, Endres, Kitson, Spitzfaden and Timberman

Staff Present: Davila and Reid

Guests: Michael Rybicki (Representing VAMC), Al Carter (SOS), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Cullen Beaudin (Elks Lodge 2540), Gary Morris (American Legion), Ron Sarg (MOAA), and Tom Daws (VVA)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Ennis opened the meeting by introducing two new Commissioners, Maurice "Moe" Evans (American Legion) and Henry Smith (AMVETS).

Mr. Rybicki reported on the progress of the Georgetown and Dover Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

Mr. McMullen reported on a visit to the Veterans Home by some active duty members of the AF Sergeants Association.

Mr. Daws reported that in October he invited Mr. Reid and Mr. Carter to attend one of their membership meetings. Mr. Reid made a very informative presentation that cleared up some issues and misunderstandings.

Mr. Morris stated that he fully supports Maurice Evans and that the American Legion is behind Mr. Evans 100%.

Mr. Reid provided an update on the Veterans Home patients and staffing. He reported that they have hired a new social worker with a degree from an accredited program to comply with the VA's recent inspection. He also reported on the events of Veterans Day at the Home. The president of the DE/MD/DC Elks came to visit the Veterans Home and made a donation of over \$1,000. There was also a donation of over \$1,000 from the League of Women's Organizations. Mr. Reid expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to speak at the VVA meeting.

**MOTION BY CARROLL TO ACCEPT OCTOBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Newstadt reported on the recent Northern Family Advisory Cemetery Committee (FACC) meeting and feels that they have resolved the tree and bench marker situation to everyone's

satisfaction. Mr. Davila elaborated on the details of the marker progress, Cemetery upgrades and expansion progress. Commissioner Newstadt commented on the recent architecture selection process that occurred. Commissioner Carroll expressed his concerns about the care of several private cemeteries and discussion followed.

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Ennis outlined the current schedule of events for the Commission commemorative affairs. Commissioner Smith commented that the recent Veterans Day Ceremony at the Delaware Memorial Bridge went very well.

FINANCE AND LOGISTICS

No report.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Commissioner Carroll reported that the funds in the Veterans Home are currently at \$92,136.77 and the balance for the Friends of the Veterans Home is \$479,415.59. He discussed the Delaware Veterans Home Application for Volunteer Service and the protocol related to the recognition of different kinds of donations to the Veterans Home. Discussion followed.

PERSONNEL

Commissioner Lardizzone reported that they will be holding interviews for the Conservation Tech II position at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery (New Castle County) on December 7, 2007.

BY-LAWS

No report.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

No report.

MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

Not report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Carroll (MOPH) – Reported that the MOPH is currently recognizing those who have been killed in conflict with a memorial plaque. He announced that his organization is running a membership drive through June 2008; anyone who is qualified can receive a life membership for \$50. There will be a Christmas parade in Millsboro on Saturday.

Lardizzone (DAV) – Announced that he will be attending the State Commander’s dinner in New Jersey for the DAV and Auxiliary.

Thompson (MCL) – Reported that they will be working on *Toys for Tots* between now and Christmas.

Ennis (KWVA) – They will have their Executive meeting this Saturday and will be having their annual holiday get-together at the Sheraton following the meeting

Harden (WAVES) – She received their organization’s bronze plaque that will be displayed at the Veterans Home. She is looking for a new source to order flags; the previous company they used has gone out of business.

Newstadt (JWV) – They had a successful tour of the Veterans Home and they were impressed with the atmosphere and the attitude of the staff. Their organization also toured the DAFB Museum. Their next tour will be at the museum in Aberdeen.

Evans (American Legion) – Their National Commander will visit Delaware during March 12-14, 2007. Mr. Morris assisted Commissioner Evans by outlining details about their Homeland Security Program.

Smith (AMVETS) – Reported that AMVETS (Post 4 – Smyrna) conducted a donation drive in all three counties for *Operation Warming the Wounded*. The donated items will be delivered to the veterans at the Walter Reed Medical Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Ennis announced that there is going to be a special session in the Senate Chamber to swear in his brother, Bruce Ennis. There will be a *Homes for Our Troops* Ceremony on December 5, 2007, 2:00 pm, where they will be donating a home to SGT Jason Nielson. It was agreed that the Advisory Committee meeting time would be changed to 12:00 noon so as not to conflict with the ceremony.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Newstadt announced that Commission members and attending guests are invited to the Elsmere Fire Company’s Annual Christmas Parade on December 9, 2007, 12:00 noon.

A special election for the Vice-Chairman position was held. Commissioner Lardizzone was nominated and elected as the Vice-Chairman with no opposition.

Chairman Ennis reminded everyone that the Holiday Party will be held right after the December Commission Meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **DECEMBER 18, 2007 (10:00 AM)**

LOCATION: **Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED